GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3161
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has advised the doctors to reduce prescribing antibiotics because their overuse is spreading drug resistance;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to educate the public on the adverse effect of overuse of antibiotics; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure compliance with the advise of the World Health Organisation?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): The World Health Organisation (WHO) advocates rational use of drugs as over use of antimicrobials may lead to increased antimicrobial resistance.

(b)&(c): Antibiotics are already covered under Schedule H to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and are required to be sold against prescription only.